HISTORIES

OF

GOUTY, BILIOUS AND NERVOUS CASES,

With the SAFE and EASY MEANS by which they were remedied;

RELATED BY THE PATIENTS THEMSELVES,

IN SUNDRY LETTERS TO

JOHN SCOT, M.D.

Author of AN ENQUIRY INTO THE ORIGIN OF THE GOUT: Wherein its various Symptoms and Appearances are traced to their Cause, and a safe and certain Mode of remedying it proposed.

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LONDON:

Printed for T. BECKET, Adelphi, Strand, and Sold by J. BOWEN, Corner of Beaufort Buildings; and at his Shop at Brightheimstone. M DCC LXXX.

1780

Juſt publiſhed.

Price 3s. ſewed.

AN Enquiry into the Origin of the GOUT: Wherein its various Symptoms and Appearances are traced to their Cauſe, and a ſafe and certain Mode of remedying it propoſed.

By JOHN SCOT, M. D.

In the Courſe of this Treatiſe the following Subjects are explained upon new Principles, viz. the Nature of the Nervous Fluid, and its Agency in the Animal Œconomy; the Powers and Offices of the Stomach; the Proceſs of Digeſtion; Bilious and other Stomach Complaints; Menſtruation and other periodical Diſcharges in both Sexes; the general Cauſe of Chronic Diſeaſes, and why they alternate with and ſuperſede each other; of Conſumptions, their Cauſe and Cure, &c.

Printed for T. Becket, Adelphi, Strand.

*** The Remedy adminiſtered in the following Caſes, is in the form of Pills, and may. with the neceſſary Directions, be conveyed under Cover of a Frank by Poſt. They may be had of the Publiſhers, and of the Author, and no where elſe.

To the PUBLIC.

WHEN I publiſhed my Enquiry into the Nature and Origin of the Gout, &c. I confeſs I did it under the ſtrongeſt impreſſion of diffidence; which was greatly increaſed when I found, that my reaſoning on that ſubject led to the eſtabliſhment of a new ſyſtem of reaſoning upon, and accounting for, every operation of the animal œconomy, and almoſt every diſeaſe to which the human frame is liable: this I entered upon, not ignorant that an innovator ſeldom fails to become the center, towards which a variety of dangerous paſſions direct their attacks from all quarters; of Prepoſſeſſion, which abhors the man who diſturbs the peaceful throne of eſtabliſhed opinion; of Pride, which reſents as an inſult, every claim to better information; of thoſe who, in the character of Public Teachers, have been long employed in promulgating the

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principles of prior theory; of Practitioners of all ranks, who are ſuppoſed to be already individually poſſeſt of every truth neceſſary to the moſt ſucceſsful mode of curing diſeaſes; in ſhort, of all whoſe candour and love of fair diſquiſition is not ſuperior to the leſs generous feelings of the heart.

I am happy, however, to have it in my power to declare, that of all theſe apprehenſions on the abovementioned occaſion, my experience has not realized—One.—My Enquiry has been publiſhed nine months, the greater part of a pretty large edition has been ſold off, and yet my doctrines have not been publicly controverted, nor, as far as I know, privately attacked: from what cauſe this reſerve and apparent general acquieſcence proceeds; whether I am to conſider it as a mark of approbation, or contempt of the ſubject and the work, it does not become me to decide. But although I have not been honoured with the ſanction of the learned Practitioners in Phyſic, I have been ſufficiently gratified by the private approbation, and written teſtimony of a variety of men of genius and literature, who have declared, that their own obſervations and experience, give the moſt concluſive evidence in favor of mine. From theſe written evidences, I have

ſelected only the following letters, the authors of which have permitted me, after publiſhing Copies, to leave the Originals with my Book-ſeller, that the Public may be fully ſatisfied of their authenticity, and of the degree of credit, that is due to men of parts, giving a relation of ſuch facts, as they could not be deceived in; moſt of them being alſo men diſtinguiſhed by hereditary honors, or high in profeſſional rank; the reſt, men of eminence in their different occupations, publicly known, and of undoubted veracity.

Old Burlington Street,
London, July 20.

John Scot.

Advertiſement.

THE Original Letters, of which the following are exact Copies, are left at my Shop, for the Inſpection and Satisfaction of all proper Perſons.

Corner of Adelphi,
Strand, July 20,

T. BECKET.

London, June 30, 1780.

From J. G. Eſq; Captain in his Majeſty's Navy.

DEAR DOCTOR,

AS I am very ſoon going down to my ſhip, ſhall be obliged to you for a freſh ſupply of your Pills, as they always carry off the fit, and in my caſe anſwer the intent, from the experience of three years never once found myſelf deceived; whenever any ſymptoms appear of the Gout, five or ſix of the Pills have generally carried off the gouty matter, and never found myſelf out of health, ſince I took your Pills,

I am,

DEAR DOCTOR,

Your moſt humble Servant,

J. G.

London, June 28, 1780.

From Mr. W. W. *Pall-Mall.*

SIR,

AFTER having been much afflicted with the head-ake and a ſickneſs every morning

ing, and frequently at other times of the day, particularly if I had walked too faſt; theſe complaints continued on me for about the ſpace of two months, at the concluſion of which period, I was attacked with a fit of the gout in my foot, which laſted about twenty hours, and then a ſwelling came on; the day after my friend called on me, whoſe family have many of them been (to my knowledge) martyrs to the Gout, and he himſelf afflicted with it in the moſt violent degree, he told me of your Pills, whoſe effects had relieved, when no other medicine had, tho' he had for five years been under the care of the moſt eminent Phyſicians; he likewiſe referred me to another acquaintance, who had experienced their ſalutaty effects. In conſequence of this information, I wiſhed to try them myſelf; I took your Pills, and found they had the effects my friend told me they ſhould have; and in three or four days I was quite relieved: but the moſt extraordinary thing was, they had no effect on me, after the fit was quite gone; but being of a relaxed habit of body, I was ſubject to catch cold, which brought on the ſame complaint, but on taking your Pills again have been immediately relieved, therefore think it a duty incumbent

on

on me to expreſs my obligations to you for ſo valuable a relief as they procure me, who am

Your very humble Servant,

W. W.

London, June 14, 1780.

From Mr. WILL. N. *Strand.*

SIR,

I Had been ſome years ſubject to the periodical attacks of a regular Gout, the fits of which ſometimes confined me for ſix weeks at a time, and each fit left me much weakened, and ſeemed to be making very alarming alterations in my conſtitution. I firſt took your Pills in the very commencement of a fit that ſeem'd to threaten a ſevere confinement; but they diſcharged all the gouty matter by ſtool and urine in three days, and on the fourth day I found myſelf perfectly well; ſince that period whenever I feel a threatening fit, I take a Pill or two, which never fails to carry off every ſymptom of it. I therefore have taken every opportunity to recommend them to all my acquaintances, and hope for the good of thoſe that are troubled with this

dreadful diſorder, that your Pills may meet with the ſucceſs they deſerve,

I am,

SIR,

Your much obliged Servant,

W. N.

London, June 26, 1780.

From Mr. Rob. Sh. Strand.

SIR,

MY Father was very much afflicted with the Gout, and my Brother died of an irregular Gout at York, at the age of forty-ſix; it is five years this month ſince I was ſeized ſuddenly with a moſt excruciating pain under the ſhort ribs of my right ſide; it was ſomewhat relieved by a glaſs of brandy but ſoon returned with redoubled violence, extending like a cramp or ſpaſm all over my arms, ſhoulders and neck, ſo that I was unable to move even a finger without ſuffering the moſt dreadful agonies, as if the nerves and ſinews all over the parts afflicted were actually under immediate laceration; by direction

of

of a Phyſician of eminence I was blooded, which did not much relieve me; but ſome warm cordials ordered afterwards by the ſame Phyſician, made me perſpire a little, and at the end of twenty-four hours the pain abated; ſome ſmart purges which I took increaſed the relief; but for three days complete I was unable to leave my bed; and after all, the diſeaſe only ſeemed to change its ſtation, and fix in the ſtomach, neck and breaſt, extending as far as the ſhoulders; I was in danger of being choaked with wind; and an extraordinary ſwelling of all my veins, and ſenſe of ſtrangulation every half hour about my throat, together with ſo acute a pain extending acroſs my breaſt from one ſhoulder to the other, that I remained fixed and rivetted in whatever ſpot I happened to be at the time I was ſo ſeized; and three or four times in every night was obliged to jump out of bed, leſt I ſhould be ſtrangled, and to ſtand ſtock ſtill for a conſiderable time unable to move; for the leaſt motion exaſperated the force of the lacerating ſpaſm that ſeemed to tear to pieces every thing upon my breaſt, arms, and neck. In the courſe of four years, I conſulted ſeveral of the moſt eminent Phyſicians in London, and took a variety of other advice and abundance of medicines but without any material abatement of my complaints, which were ſo much

increaſed by eating or faſting, that for two hours after breakfaſt and two hours before ſupper, I was in exceeding great diſtreſs. A little, however, before Chriſtmas, 1778, being ſeized with a pain in my great toe all my uſual complaints vaniſhed, and whilſt my toe continued ſwelled and inflamed, I enjoyed a perfect reſpite from all the other pains; but all the former diſtreſſing ſymptoms returned as ſoon as the pain and ſwelling left my toe. In which unhappy ſtate I was when you took me under your care, almoſt unable to execute the duties of my profeſſion; every hour, in every place, eſpecially in the ſtreet, if I attempted to walk in cold weather, liable to be bound down by ſuch ſpaſms and ſtrangulations, that I was inſtantly deprived of the power of moving in any way, and expected nothing but immediate ſuffocation, After taking your Pills a few days, I found great relief, and I continued to take them according to your directions until they ceaſed to operate, and I was free from my diſtreſs: and and when at any time, a ſudden change of weather, an accidental cold, or ſome other cauſe, brings back my diſorder in any degree, three or four of your Pills never fail to carry it off. This teſtimony of the efficacy of your remedy, I think myſelf obliged to give for the benefit of others,

and

and in gratitude to you for that degree of health I at preſent enjoy.

R. S.

July 5, 1780.

From the Right Honorable, Lord ——.

BELIEVE me, dear Sir, I rejoice to ſee that you have been prevailed on to advertize your moſt Excellent Remedy for the Gout, Bilious and Nervous Complaints; I ſhould think myſelf guilty of the higheſt ingratitude, were I not to acknowlege the great and moſt furprizing benefit I have received from it, at the ſame time requeſting you to make ſuch uſe of this teſtimony of mine, as you ſhall think moſt proper.

I was for many years afflicted with violent pains in my ſtomach, with almoſt a conſtant ſickneſs eſpecially after my meals; I applied to the Faculty in every part of the country where I chanced to be, but found only a temporary relief from their preſcriptions, and that of a ſhort duration. They all agreed that my complaint was bilious, but none of them hit on a remedy powerful enough to remove it. My diſorder increaſing, I put myſelf under the care of an old ac-

acquaintance and friend, a gentleman whoſe experience and practice as a Phyſician juſtly entitles him to be firſt in eſteem and reputation in Bath; I followed his preſcriptions for near three months at home, when he deſired me to come to Bath, and try the waters there; this I did for thirteen weeks, conſtantly drinking the waters and following his directions; my diſorder ſtill encreaſed, and its dreadful and tedious effects, together with the great quantities of medicine I had taken, had ſo relaxed my nerves that I was ſcarcely able to walk acroſs my room; in this ſituation I left Bath with little hopes of recovery, being told that I muſt no longer depend on the effects of medicine, and that change of air was the only thing left for relief. I had not been long at home before I moſt fortunately met with General ——, who kindly liſtened to my complaints, and told me that he had once long laboured under the ſame diſorder, had ſeverely felt every ſymptom I complained of, and after conſulting the moſt eminent of the faculty, found no relief till he applied to you, who gave him ſome Pills that in a ſhort time reſtored him to perfect health. The General, who in a few days afterwards went to London, moſt friendly waited on you with a deſcription of my caſe, and I received from you a Box of Pills with your directions how to conduct

duct myſelf, after taking about ſix or ſeven of them I diſcharged great quantities of Bile, both by ſtool and urine, my ſpirits and ſtrength increaſed daily, and my ſleep (which I had long been a ſtranger to) was ſound and comfortable; in leſs than a month I was able to ride on horſeback ten or a dozen miles without fatigue, my appetite returned, and my food which before ſerved only to breed Phlegm, now digeſted, and nouriſhed me; I now enjoy better health than I have for many years, and when I find any return of my complaint, it is leſs violent, and a Pill or two moſt certainly removes it.

I am, Dear Sir,

With ſincere Reſpect and Eſteem,

Your grateful and affectionate humble Servant,

W. S.

London, June 6, 1780.

From the Honorable Colonel ——.

DEAR SIR,

AS I underſtand you are going to diſpoſe of your Pills in a more public manner than you have hitherto done; I think it but juſtly due to their merit, to render my teſtimony of the benefit I have not only myſelf derived from them, but alſo by adminiſtering them during the courſe of ſix years, both in America and in this country, to a variety of people (of different ages) labouring under Bilious, Nervous and Gouty Complaints; and I never failed to receive thanks from the patients for the relief I helped them to.

From a ſevere gun-ſhot wound thro' the lungs, I contracted a bad ſtate of health accompanied with a variety of diſagreeable ſymptoms, amongſt others, a frequent and painful acidity in the ſtomach, and a conſtant pain in the ball of the left thumb, attended with ſmall livid ſpots; and this pain was always ſevereſt, when the acidity and other complaints in my ſtomach raged the moſt: for eight years I never was entirely free from theſe diſorders, and the leaſt ſhock upon the part never failed to renew the pain in my thumb. For theſe

complaints

complaints I conſulted ſeveral eminent Phyſicians, with little advantage, and without obtaining from any of them a ſatisfactory account of the nature of my diſorder, altho' by my own obſervation I was enabled to deſcribe to them an evident affinity between the complaints in my ſtomach, and the pain in the ball of my thumb, becauſe when, according to my cuſtom, I took a couple of table ſpoonfuls of magneſia, which not only deſtroyed the acidity, but by a ſmall irritation produced an immediate evacuation of the contents of my ſtomach, by vomiting, the pain in my thumb then became very moderate, and only juſt perceptible.

You may recollect, that about ſix years ago, one morning when you came to breakfaſt with me, you found me extremely ill, and of that worſt kind of illneſs which affects the ſpirits, as well as the body, you immediately told me I was loaded with Bile, and that if I was inclined to make the experiment, you would anſwer for it, that in leſs than 48 hours I ſhould be perfectly relieved; I accordingly took ſome of your Pills, and they relieved me within the time you mentioned, by diſcharging a very great quantity of bile: I continued to take one Pill every night for the ſpace of ten days, and from that period

I never had a return of the pain in my thumb. Sometimes in the night by lying on the right ſide, I was formerly and am ſtill ſubject to a pain and an uneaſy ſenſation in the region of the right kidney; this complaint I alſo carry off, as often as it returns, by taking a few of your Pills. Wiſhing you therefore every ſucceſs in the ſale of them,

I am, with eſteem,
DEAR SIR,
Your moſt ſincere and obedient Servant,
J. M.

P. S. Whenever I find an uneaſineſs in my ſtomach from a collection of Bile, I take one of your Pills for the ſpace of three or four nights, and they never fail to remove it.

May 14, 1780.

From Sir W. M. Bart.

DEAR SIR,

THE Cough and Pain in my Breaſt are almoſt gone, but if they recur, I ſhall obſerve your directions, and till they be perfectly gone,

I ſhall

I ſhall eat little meat ; I muſt beg you will ſend me a Box of Pills once in five Weeks at leaſt; as I cannot think of at any time allowing myſelf entirely to run out of the only medicine which ever gave me real or laſting relief, after having for years tried all that have been preſcribed for me by the ableſt Phyſicians in this country: and I cannot come upon this ſubject without returning you my hearty thanks for the degree of health I enjoy, and which I had given over hopes of ever attaining, as well from the ill ſucceſs of all other preſcriptions, as from the conviction I had that all but yourſelf had miſtaken my caſe, in not admitting it to be a flying Gout. Believe me, Dear Sir,

Your's ſincerely,

W. M.

A Gentleman of high military rank was ſubject to frequent attacks of a regular Gout in the extremities, which were always preceded by complaints in his ſtomach ; ſometimes he had ſymptoms which were deemed Bilious. and ſome-

times he was ſeized with the moſt violent ſpaſms and cramps in his ſtomach, having all the appearance of an inflammation of that part; being of an atheletic, muſcular make, and of remarkable activity in his profeſſion, the confinement which theſe occaſional illneſſes occaſioned, became intolerable to him. About five years ago, he began to take the Pills, has occaſionally taken them according to the printed directions ever ſince, and is at preſent not only freed from every ſymptom of Gout, or Diſorder in his Stomach, but poſſeſſes an uninterrupted ſtate of health in every reſpect.

From Mrs. M—y.

Vauxhall, July 16, 1780.

SIR,

I Rejoice much to hear that you are making your valuable Pills public. I am alſo told, that many of your patients are giving you their Caſes, to publiſh for the good of Mankind. If my teſtimony can be of any ſervice even to *one* of my ſuffering fellow-creatures, I give it with a hearty good will.

From

From a ſedentary life and a variety of diſagreeable events, I became ſubject to nervous complaints, and others that by Gentlemen of the Faculty were termed Bilious; the firſt were generally followed by the laſt, that *is*, after being diſtreſſed with tremor, depreſſion of ſpirits, want of ſleep, &c. theſe ſymptoms terminated in acute pains in the ſtomach and bowels. I applied to Phyſicians of the firſt eminence, and the laſt gentleman that attended me is at this time amongſt the firſt and moſt diſtinguiſhed of the profeſſion in London; but without the leaſt relief. One evening, in an agony of pain, having ſeen them taken by an infant of five years old, I took one of your Pills, which in a quarter of an hour removed my pains, and compoſed all the agitations of my nerves; and the ſame happy effect they have never failed to produce ever ſince, which is now five years. Their operation ſeems to be that of an opiate with me for they very ſeldom purge, yet at the ſame time I muſt obſerve, that the leaſt particle of opium has at all times the effect of diſcompoſing rather than compoſing my nerves, ſo that I am convinced there is nothing of that drug in the Pills.

I am, Sir,

Your much obliged humble Servant,

M. M.

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I am, Sir,

Your much obliged humble Servant,

M. M.

DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING THE PILLS.

ONE PILL is a Doſe, and Night the proper time for taking it. It diſcharges the Gouty Matter by the Bowels in hot, acrid Stools, or by the Kidneys, in Urine, which, on ſtanding, drops a copious brick-color'd Sediment. In Gouty Caſes, they ought to be taken no longer than whilſt they produce one or other of the above-mentioned Effects, and whilſt they do produce theſe Effects, they may be taken every night, or at leaſt every other night; the Continuation and Quantity of the Evacuation will be in Proportion to the Quantity of Gouty Matter in the Body. Hence it happens when the Gouty Matter is very copious in the Patient, that the firſt Pills, ſometimes, produce frequent and ſharp Diſcharges from the Bowels, or Urine almoſt black; ſometimes it has happened that a Quantity of Mucus, covering the Bowels, has prevented the Operation of the firſt Pills, which after exhibiting a gentle purge, have acted with their uſual Succeſs.

When

When the Gout makes an Attack on the Stomach, four, five, or ſix of theſe Pills, taken at once, will preſently remove the Complaint.

When all the Fomes and immediate Fewel of Gout has been evacuated, in order to harden the Conſtitution againſt Relapſes, a Tea-ſpoonful of the Tincture of Gum Guiacum, taken every ſecond Morning an Hour before Breakfaſt, in two Tea-ſpoonfuls of old Rum, in ſome relaxed Habits and Conſtitutions may be neceſſary.

In Nervous and Hypochondriac Caſes, the Pills act only as anti-ſpaſmodics, without creating any Evacuation; and, in ſuch Complaints, one Pill may be taken the firſt Week; two, the ſecond Week, and never more than three Pills, in any ſucceeding Week.

One certain Effect of the Medicine being that of opening the Pores, the Patient, on the Days the Pills are taken, ought carefully to guard againſt Cold.

The Regimen in all Caſes in which the Pills are uſeful, may be nearly the ſame; all Exceſs in eating and drinking ought to be avoided; Boiling, Roaſting, or Broiling, are the beſt, becauſe the ſimpleſt, Cookery; it is neceſſary to abſtain from Fiſh, Salt Meats, Butter, Cheeſe, Paſtry, and Sweet Meats, and to keep to Fleſh Meats at Dinner.

Of

Of Liquids, the mildeſt are the propereſt; Punch is particularly hurtful; ſo is Ale, and every Sort of Beer, except mild Small Beer in the Caſk: every Thing acid, acrid, or ſharp, and whatever is likely to weaken the Stomach, as Quantities of Fruit, Vegetables, &c. ought carefully to be refrained from. Wines of every Denomination ought to be left off, by every Gouty Perſon under Sixty, at leaſt they ought never to be drank on the ſame day with Malt Liquor; and, except on the Days when the Pills are operating, Milk will be the beſt Breakfaſt, and a Draught of Runnet Whey, the beſt Supper. When under the Operation of the Pills, Water Gruel or Sagoe may be uſed for Breakfaſt; neither Tea nor Coffee are ever to be uſed.

N. B. When the Gout has been reſident in a debilitated, ſcorbutic Conſtitution for many Years, in ſuch Caſes the Pills have no Effect, and a proper Regimen, and a warmer Climate will be the only Remedy.

THE Original Letters to be ſeen at the Publiſher's, are each ſigned at full length by the Writers.

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